

C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER
2ND DISTRICT, MARYLAND

REPLY TO:

☐ 2453 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3061
FAX: (202) 225-3094

THE ATRIUM

☐ 375 WEST PADDONIA ROAD, SUITE 200
TIMONIUM, MD 21093
(410) 628-2701
FAX: (410) 628-2708

www.dutch.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2002

September 15, 2009

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Secretary Ray LaHood
Department of Transportation
400 7th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I strongly support the State of Maryland and the City of Baltimore's TIGER grant applications for ARRA funds through the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Traffic and population growth are serious concerns in Maryland. Historically, the Baltimore-Washington Metro Areas is ranked one of the most congested areas in the country. Also, the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) will bring more than 70,000 new jobs to the State. The projects that these grants would fund are vital to address the increasing traffic and growth in the region. These projects will also generate much needed new jobs in order to help stimulate the economy.

- The State of Maryland's MARC Capacity and Service Reliability Improvements: This funding would improve service on regional passenger rail. The benefits of this project will enhance the efficiency of both passenger and freight service, and lay the groundwork for increased MARC service. This MARC service will be vital to address BRAC growth in the state.
- The State of Maryland's Central Maryland Transit Maintenance Facility: This funding would increase the bus and transit capacity that service Fort George G. Meade and the National Security Agency in response to Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC).
- The State of Maryland's Masonville Vessel Berth 3: This funding would help the Maryland Port Administration to construct a new pier at the Port of Baltimore, which is currently second in the nation for exporting American made automobiles. The project would provide long-term economic benefits to the region and nation, ensuring uninterrupted supply lines between U.S. automobile manufacturers and purchasers worldwide.
- The State of Maryland's BRAC Transportation Improvements in Maryland: This funding would address congestion due to anticipated increases in traffic volumes and transit ridership as a result of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)-related growth at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Harford County, Fort George G. Meade in Anne Arundel County and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Montgomery County. The funds would allow the state to construct priority transportation improvements identified

by MDOT in coordination with the impacted localities and military installations and to improve safety, operations and access within the September 2011 BRAC timeframe.

- The City of Baltimore's Westport Waterfront Transportation Infrastructure Improvements for Transit Oriented Development: This project will provide much-needed intermodal, innovative transportation improvements to facilitate the redevelopment of more than 120 acres of vacant and underutilized properties on the west side of Baltimore City's Middle Branch.

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact me or my Senior Policy Advisor Walter Gonzales at 202-225-3061.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
Member of Congress

CADR:jm